

MONTHLY WILDLAND FIRE WEATHER/FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

1. REPORTING UNIT: WGBCC

2. DATE: 6/28/06

3. POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

This Coming Month	Below Normal		Normal	X	Above Normal	X
This Coming Season	Below Normal		Normal	X	Above Normal	X

COMMENTS: Curing is complete across the southern 2/3 of the state, and mostly complete across the lower elevation rangelands of northern Nevada. Fuels above 8000 ft will be the last to cure, with NDVI imagery showing just a few patches of green in the northwestern corner of the state. Elevated soil moistures remain in the far north and in higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, with just a few areas of snow cover remaining. Fire danger will be moderate to high in the lower elevation grasslands through the coming month. With heavy fine fuel loading, significant fire potential will be above normal for several parts of the state. In the south, annual fine fuels are heaviest in the Spring Mountains of Clark County and in the mountainous areas of Lincoln County though the normal onset of summer monsoon rains will keep the Spring Mountains in normal fire potential.

4. FIRE WEATHER FACTORS:

CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

None	X	MODERATE		SEVERE		EXTREME	
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The U.S. Drought Monitor (valid June 20, 2006) currently indicates no drought conditions for Nevada though a small slice of eastern Clark County is being identified as "abnormally dry". The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction shows little or no change to these conditions through September 2006.

TEMPERATURE/PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK:

July PRECIP		July TEMP		PAST 4 WEEKS PRECIP		PAST 4 WEEKS TEMP	
BELOW	X	BELOW		BELOW	X	BELOW	
NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X	NORMAL	X	NORMAL	
ABOVE		ABOVE	X	ABOVE	X	ABOVE	X

Precipitation anomalies and outlook:

Over the past 4 weeks, precipitation has been below normal for the southern $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state, above normal (200% of normal) over Humboldt County, with near normal values between these two areas. Starting late in the month of June, a shift to a more active weather pattern occurred with the start of the Southwest Monsoon. Monsoonal moisture moving up from the south is being trapped under a strong ridge of high pressure, and the combination of high temperatures and a slow infusion of moisture is fertile ground for the production of thunderstorms over Nevada. This will likely continue into July with occasional breaks.

Temperature anomalies and outlook:

Temperatures have been above normal for June, with an average of 1-3 degrees above normal in the east and an average of 4-6 degrees above normal in the west. An active weather pattern in early July will produce temperatures closer to normal since increased cloudiness will tend to moderate current high temperatures. The overall trend for the month will end up averaging out close to normal across the north and slightly above normal in the south.

5. CURRENT FUELS CONDITIONS:

Except in the highest elevations, abundant and continuous fine fuels have cured across northeastern Nevada. In the far northwest, fine fuels will continue curing, adding to the heavy fine fuel carryover from last year. Across central Nevada and in the south, a much more meager crop of annual grasses this year has already cured and will minimally add to the fine fuel loading from last year's carryover fuels. Fine fuel loadings across southern Nevada are spotty in nature, and the main player there will be the availability of fine fuels from last year which are abundant in some areas and nearly absent in other.

Fine fuel loadings across much of the northern Nevada rangelands will likely support large fire growth in the lower elevations, even in the absence of strong winds.

FINE – GRASS STAGE	PRE- GREEN		GREEN	X	CURED	X
NEW GROWTH	SPARSE		NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	X

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE (sage & conifer): Measured Values

Sagebrush

Elko: (N/A)
Winnemucca: (158%)
Carson City: (137-168%)
Ely: (118-142%)
Las Vegas: (104%)
Battle Mountain: (138-226%)

Conifers

Battle Mountain: (NA)
Carson City: (97-104%)
Winnemucca: (NA)

NORMAL / AVERAGE LIVE FUEL MOISTURE FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR

Sagebrush

Elko: (132-141%)
Winnemucca: (140-149%)
Carson City: (105-140%)
Ely: (119-153%)
Las Vegas: (95-160%)
Battle Mountain: (118- 84%)

Conifers

Battle Mountain: (NA)
Carson City: (99-104%)
Winnemucca: (N/A)

1000 HOUR FUEL MOISTURE: From Fire Family Plus

Sierra Nevada: 10%
Central Nevada: 6%
Southern Nevada: 3-4%

NORMAL / AVERAGE 1000 HOUR FUEL MOISTURE FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR

Sierra Nevada: 9%
Central Nevada: 7%
Southern Nevada: 8%

6. AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE / ACRES BURNED (to date 5 year average): 211
Fires / 159,359 Acres Burned

7. ACTUAL OCCURRENCE / ACRES BURNED (to date this year): 233 Fires /
114,318 Acres Burned

8. WRITTEN SUMMARY

Geographic Area Name	Western Great Basin
Precipitation Outlook	Normal for most of the state, slightly below normal far north.
Temperature Outlook	Normal for most of the state, slightly above normal far south.
Fuels and Fire Danger Concerns	<p>There are still a couple of locations in the Sierra with several feet of snow, but by and large, Nevada is bare of snow cover. Fuels above 8000 ft in the northern 1/3 of the state are still green, but should cure during this coming month. Soil moistures are still elevated in the Sierra Front and across the northern borders of the state, but that should change in July as the northern reaches of the state dry out. Curing of the fine fuels across most of the lower elevation rangelands of northern Nevada is complete. Fire danger will likely remain low through the coming month in the higher elevations of northern Nevada as curing progresses. Fire danger across the lower elevations of the north will be near normal, but with heavy fine fuel loading, significant fire potential will be above normal. Further south, annual fine fuels are cured and are heaviest in the Spring Mountains of Clark County and in the mountainous areas of Lincoln County.</p>
Prescribed fire implications	<p>Near-complete curing across the northern part of the state this month will sharply lessen opportunities for prescribed fire. Except for the highest elevation locations, chances for escapes will be high. Above normal soil moistures will allow for decent burning conditions in the forested regions of the Sierra. Further south, the prescribed fire window of opportunity has closed.</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>Last winter's very wet conditions across northern and western Nevada have lead to a copious annual grass crop with many of the same areas also having a significant carryover of last year's crop. Extreme fire behavior has already been experienced is only expected to get worse as the season progresses. Precipitation across the south earlier this spring has not lead to a new heavy crop of grass thus most problems in the south are likely to be associated with patchy areas of heavy carry over from last year. Areas of concern include the Spring Mountains, Clover Mountains, Mormon Mesa area, and parts of the basin and range country along I-80 stretching northward to southeastern Oregon.</p>

9. SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL MAP

